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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/287,478	04/06/1999	CHRISTIAN STIG RODE	RCI001V1	6350

50132 7590 04/22/2005

RODE CONSULTING, INC.
2412 STEARNS HILL RD.
WALTHAM, MA 02451

EXAMINER

PHAN, THAI Q

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2128

DATE MAILED: 04/22/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 09/287,478	Applicant(s) RODE, CHRISTIAN STIG	
	Examiner Thai Q. Phan	Art Unit 2128	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 14 January 2005.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-16 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-16 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>01/14/2005</u> . | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

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DETAILED ACTION

This Office Action is in response to a Request for Continued Application filed on 01/14/2005. Claims 1-16 are pending in the action.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

1. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

2. Claims 1-16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Van Huben et al, US patent no. 5,950,201 in view of Lawman et al, US patent no. 6,324,672 B1.

As per claim 1, Van Huben (201) discloses a method and system for computerized design automization using inter-networking (e.g. World Wide Web) for transmitting design or simulation data over the network with feature limitations very similar to the claimed invention (Abstract, "Summary of the Invention"). According to Van Huben, the design simulation and verification method includes steps of creating a transmission network including clients, servers, etc. to form a computing and simulation network wherein each network client would carry unique identifier such as addressing to client, account number, etc. (Col. 18, lines 20-25, col. 23, lines 17-49, as example),

Art Unit: 2128

creating and transmitting created structure design data , accepting data from at least one client (col. 9, line 41 to col. 10, line 20), wherein the structure design data would include user interface information (elements) to guide user to enter design data, design information, etc. in different templates and system platforms, such as high level programming languages, PC workstations, UNIX, etc as claimed (cols. 44-45, 63), merging design form data with other data including template data for concurrent processing, processing merged data for output,

merging user form data and the user identifier from the user client,

simulating functional design with merged data using user interactive window program, and transmitting design simulation data with compatible format to client as claimed (col. 6, lines 54-67, col. 9, line 53 to col. 11, line 55, col. 16, line 33 to col. 18, line 64, col. 20, line 27 to col. 22, line 65, cols. 33, 44-45, 51, 85-88). Van-Huben does not expressly disclose a unique identifier with a display list as claimed. Such feature is however well-known in the art. In fact, Lawman teaches a web-based design method and system over a computer network to provide a user or client with a unique identifier to create or generate design simulation data (col. 7, lines 50-58). The network transmits the unique identifier to create user client interface, taking action from the user through the web-based programming interface applet id (Figs. 5-17, cols. 7-10) and for user client interface such as entering or editing data from remote locations (cols. 7-10), compiling data from the other server, etc. as taught in col. 4, lines 1-42, and in cols. 7-10, for example.

This would motivate practitioner in the art at the time of the invention was made to modify Van Huben disclosure by implementing a unique identifier to the user (client) as taught by Lawman into the Van Huben design and simulation environment such that user can simulate, verify and modify his/her design data over a network by using a simpler interface provided by the simulation server connected to clients for remotely compiling and simulating user (client) design data over a network of vendor servers, simulation servers, and supply chain as taught by Lawman.

As per claim 2, Van Huben also requires some of steps in claim 1 being repeated for design changes or for a new design.

As per claim 3, Lawman teaches various user interfaces for data rendering implemented in different operating system, wherein such implemented user interface including web browsers, user interface (cols. 6-10).

As per claims 4-6, Lawman teaches a unique identifier for customer or client access (col. 7, line 50 to col. 11, line 10).

As per claim 7, Lawman teaches the claimed features such as data base record, record indexing, timestamp for record, design simulation and compiling record, etc. (cols. 7-12).

As per claim 8, Van Huben (201) discloses process prioritized for scheduling and resources distribution for automation design tool (CAD) in network server for multiprocessing environment (col. 2, lines 40-45, col. 4, lines 1-19, col. 5, lines 12-21, lines 58-64, col. 6, lines 5-26).

As per claim 9, Lawman teaches the claimed features such as circuit synthesis and design data from vendor to client, design and synthesis from client to simulation server or vendor for circuit design and compilation (cols. 7-12).

As per claim 10, Van Huben (201) discloses a method and system for computerized design automization using inter-networking (e.g. World Wide Web) for transmitting design or simulation data over the network with feature limitations very similar to the claimed invention (Abstract, "Summary of the Invention"). According to Van Huben, the design simulation and verification method includes steps of creating a transmission network including clients, servers, etc. to form a computing and simulation network wherein each network client would carry unique identifier such as addressing to client, account number, etc. (Col. 18, lines 20-25, col. 23, lines 17-49, as example),

creating and transmitting created structure design data , accepting data from at least one client (col. 9, line 41 to col. 10, line 20), wherein the structure design data would include user interface information (elements) to guide user to enter design data, design information, etc. in different templates and system platforms, such as high level programming languages, PC workstations, UNIX, etc as claimed (cols. 44-45, 63), merging design form data with other data including template data for concurrent processing, processing merged data for output,

merging user form data and the user identifier from the user client,

simulating functional design with merged data using user interactive window program, and transmitting design simulation data with compatible format to client as

Art Unit: 2128

claimed (col. 6, lines 54-67, col. 9, line 53 to col. 11, line 55, col. 16, line 33 to col. 18, line 64, col. 20, line 27 to col. 22, line 65, cols. 33, 44-45, 51, 85-88). Van-Huben does not expressly disclose a unique identifier with a display list to the user as claimed. Such feature is well-known in the art. In fact, Lawman teaches a web-based design method and system over a computer network to provide a user or client with a unique identifier to create or generate design simulation data (col. 7, lines 50-58). The network transmits the unique identifier to create user client interface, taking action from the user through the web-based programming interface with applet id (Figs. 5-17, cols. 7-10) and for user client interface such as entering or editing data remotely (cols. 7-10), compiling data from the other server, etc. as taught in col. 4, lines 1-42, and in cols. 7-10.

This would motivate practitioner in the art at the time of the invention was made to modify Van Huben disclosure by implementing a unique identifier to the user (client) as taught by Lawman into the Van Huben design and simulation environment such that user can simulate, verify and modify his/her design data over a network by using a simpler interface provided by the simulation server connected to clients for remotely compiling and simulating user (client) design data over a network of vendor servers, simulation servers, and supply chain as taught by Lawman.

As per claim 11, Van Huben (201) discloses privilege mode and mode selection for user over simulation network.

As per claim 12, Van Huben (201) discloses the user client in a network of workstations and web browser. Each user client station carries a unique identification may be saved in client browser (col. 9) in order to identify user workstation for tracking,

Art Unit: 2128

security, and other purposes to improve network quality. Van Huben teaches user web browser to access, retrieve, and perform user work such simulation of circuit, verification of user design, etc. over a distributed CAD design system over a computer network (Figs. 3-10, 19, 20, cols. 10-20, 44-50).

Lawman teaches a web-based design method and system over a computer network to provide a user or client with a unique identifier to create or generate design simulation data (col. 7, lines 50-58). The network transmits the unique identifier to create user client interface, taking action from the user through the web-based programming interface applet id (Figs. 5-17, cols. 7-10) and for user client interface such as entering or editing data (cols. 7-10) remotely, compiling data from the other server, etc. as taught in col. 4, lines 1-42, and in cols. 7-10.

As per claim 13, Lawman teaches feature limitations such as getfile, logfile, data type and format for simulation (cols. 7-12).

As per claim 14, Lawman teaches web based unique identifier including web interface for data selection and entry as claimed.

As per claim 15, Van Huben (201) discloses a method and system for computerized design automization using inter-networking (e.g. World Wide Web) for transmitting design or simulation data over the network with feature limitations very similar to the claimed invention (Abstract, "Summary of the Invention"). According to Van Huben, the design simulation and verification method includes steps of creating a transmission network including clients, servers, etc. to form a computing and simulation network wherein each network client would carry unique identifier such as

Art Unit: 2128

addressing to client, account number, etc. (Col. 18, lines 20-25, col. 23, lines 17-49, as example),

creating and transmitting created structure design data , accepting data from at least one client (col. 9, line 41 to col. 10, line 20), wherein the structure design data would include user interface information (elements) to guide user to enter design data, design information, etc. in different templates and system platforms, such as high level programming languages, PC workstations, UNIX, etc as claimed (cols. 44-45, 63), merging design form data with other data including template data for concurrent processing, processing merged data for output,

merging user form data and the user identifier from the user client,

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This would motivate practitioner in the art at the time of the invention was made to modify Van Huben disclosure by implementing a unique identifier to the user (client) as taught by Lawman into the Van Huben design and simulation environment such that user can simulate, verify and modify his/her design data over a network by using a simpler interface provided by the simulation server connected to clients for remotely compiling and simulating user (client) design data over a network of vendor servers, simulation servers, and supply chain as taught by Lawman.

As per claim 16, Van Huben discloses processing a plurality of simulations from single client concurrently, and reducing simulation process as claimed including aborting simulation process, keeping the last simulation process results, etc. as known for those skilled in the simulation and a practice in simulation processing.

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1-16 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Conclusion

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

1. US patent no. 5,983,277, issued to Heile et al, on Nov. 1999
2. US patent no. 6,118,938, issued to Lawman et al, on Sept. 2000
3. US patent no. 6,578,188 B1, issued to Pang et al, on June 2003

Art Unit: 2128

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to examiner Thai Q. Phan whose telephone number is 571-272-3783. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Jean Homere can be reached on 571-272-3780. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Apr. 11, 2005



Thai Phan
Patent Examiner
Art Unit: 2128